



Oregon

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Information on labeling of consumer packages

What is required on a consumer package?

1. Declaration of IDENTITY. What is in the package.
2. Declaration of RESPONSIBILITY. Who is responsible for the package.
This includes: Name, street address, city, state, and zip code. However the street address is not required if it can be found in the phone book.
3. Declaration of QUANTITY. How much is in the package.

What else is required on random weight packages?

Random weight packages also must have declarations of net weight, unit price, and total selling price.

What is net quantity?

It is the quantity of commodity in the package, exclusive of wrappers and any other packing materials.

What are the requirements for quantity declaration?

International System of Units (SI), also known as the metric system and the inch-pound system are both recognized as proper systems for use in net quantity. Effective February 14, 1994, consumer packages are required to declare the quantity in terms of both SI units and inch-pound units.

Are there any exceptions to declaring both SI units and inch-pound units?

Yes. Consumer commodities exempt from declaring quantity in SI units include

- foods packaged at the retail store level.
- random weight packages.
- package labels printed prior to 2/14/94.
- meat and poultry subject to Federal Meat or Poultry Products Inspection Acts.
- tobacco and tobacco products.
- beverages subject to Federal Alcohol Administration Act.
- products subject to Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Acts.
- drugs and cosmetics subject to Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.
- nutrition labeling information.

Consumer commodities that bear appropriate SI units are exempt from declaring quantity in inch-pound units. However, this does not apply to foods, drugs, or cosmetics or to other items subject to regulation by the Federal Trade Commission, meat and poultry products subject to Federal Meat or Poultry Products Inspection Acts, and tobacco or tobacco products.

Do I need to use the term “net weight” or “net mass” with my quantity declaration?

No, it is not necessary. Quantity declarations may stand alone or may include the terms “net weight” or “net mass.”

Can I use qualifying terms with my quantity declaration?

No. Qualifying terms are prohibited. They include terms such as “when packed,” “minimum,” “not less than,” or any words of similar import (e.g., “approximately”). Units of weight, measure, or count cannot be qualified by any term that tends to exaggerate the amount of commodity, for example, “jumbo,” “giant,” “full.”

Do quantity declarations need to be in terms of largest whole unit?

Yes. Quantity declarations must be in terms of the largest whole unit of weight or measurement. For example, if you have a package containing 2 pounds of product, the declaration is 2 pounds and not 32 ounces. The largest whole unit of pounds is used.

What are the SI Units and Inch-pound units?

	SI UNITS	INCH-POUND UNITS
Mass	Kilogram, gram, or milligram	Pound or ounce
Liquid	Liter or milliliter	Gallon, quart, pint, or fluid ounce
Linear	Meter, centimeter, millimeter	Yard, foot, or inch
Area	Square meter, square decimeters, square centimeter, square millimeter	Square yard, square foot, square inch
Volume	Liter and milliliter	Cubic yard, cubic foot, cubic inch
Dry Measure		Bushel, peck, dry-quart, dry-pint

What symbols can be used for SI Units and Inch-pound units?

SI units:

centimeter	cm
square centimeter	cm ²
cubic centimeter	cm ³
meter	m
square meter	m ²
cubic meter	m ³
millimeter	mm
cubic decimeter	dm ³
square decimeter	dm ²
kilogram	kg
gram	g
milligram	mg
liter	L or l
milliliter	mL or ml
micrometer	µm

Inch-pound units:

avoirdupois	avdp
ounce	oz
piece	pc
count	ct
pint	pt
cubic	cu
pound	lb
each	ea
feet or foot	ft
quart	qt
fluid	fl
square	sq
gallon	gal
weight	wt
inch	in
yard	yd
liquid	liq
drained	dr
diameter	dia

SI Prefixes that may be used in conjunction with SI units

Prefix	Symbol	Multiplying Factor*
kilo-	k	x 10 ³
deca-**	da	x 10
deci-**	d	x 10 ⁻¹
centi-***	c	x 10 ⁻²
milli-	m	x 10 ⁻³
micro-****	µ	x 10 ⁻⁶

* 10²=100; 10³=1000; 10⁻¹=0.1; 10⁻²=0.01

** Not permitted on food labels.

*** Should only be used with "meter."

**** Shall only be used for measurements less than 1mm.

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